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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
Sixty-fifth session
New York
22 March-9 April 1999

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The sixty-fifth session of the Human Rights Committee will be held at United Nations Headquarters from 22 March to 9 April 1999. The first meeting will be convened on Monday, 22 March 1999 at 10.30 a.m. There will be no meetings on Monday, 29 March (Êid Al-Adha) or on Friday, 2 April (Good Friday).

2. In accordance with rule 6 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has prepared, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee, the attached provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session. Annotations to the provisional agenda are also attached.

3. Pursuant to rule 33 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the meetings of the Committee will be held in public unless the Committee decides otherwise or it appears from the relevant provisions of the Covenant or the Optional Protocol that the meetings should be held in private.

4. The attention of States parties is drawn, in particular, to the annotations to item 8 which contain the tentative timetable for the consideration of reports at the sixty-fifth session.

5. At its sixty-fourth session, the Committee decided that a working group, established under rules 62 and 89 of its rules of procedure, should meet for a period of one week prior to its sixty-fifth session. The working group is scheduled to meet at United Nations Headquarters from 15 to 19 March 1999. The first meeting will be convened on Monday, 15 March at 10.30 a.m.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session by the representative of the Secretary-General.

2. Solemn declaration by the newly elected members of the Committee in accordance with article 38 of the Covenant.

3. Election of the Chairperson and other officers of the Committee.

4. Adoption of the agenda.

5. Organizational and other matters.

6. Action by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session:

   (a) Annual report submitted by the Human Rights Committee under article 45 of the Covenant;

   (b) Effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights and effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments.

7. Submission of reports by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant.

8. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant.

9. General comments of the Committee.

10. Consideration of communications under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant.

11. Substantive issues:

   (a) Minimum standards of humanity;

   (b) Reservations to human rights treaties.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session by the Representative of the Secretary-General

The Representative of the Secretary-General will open the sixty-fifth session of the Committee and will preside over the meeting until the election of the Chairperson of the Committee.

2. Solemn declaration by the newly elected members of the Committee in accordance with article 38 of the Covenant

In accordance with article 38 of the Covenant and rule 16 of the rules of procedure, the nine members of the Committee elected or re-elected at the Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Covenant on 10 September 1998 will make the following solemn declaration:

> "I solemnly undertake to discharge my duties as a member of the Human Rights Committee impartially and conscientiously."

3. Election of the Chairperson and other officers of the Committee

In accordance with article 39, paragraph 1, of the Covenant and rule 18 of the rules of procedure, the Committee shall elect from among its members a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur. The officers of the Committee shall be elected for a term of two years.

Under rule 58 of the rules of procedure, elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless the Committee decides otherwise in the case of an election to fill a place for which there is only one candidate.

4. Adoption of the agenda

Under rule 8 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda for any session shall be the adoption of the agenda. In accordance with rule 9, during a session, the Committee may revise the agenda and may, as appropriate, defer or delete items; only urgent and important items may be added to the agenda.

5. Organizational and other matters

Under this item, the Committee will consider its programme of work for the session. In this connection, it may be noted that the Committee decided at its sixty-fourth session that the pre-sessional working group would deal not only with communications under the Optional Protocol, but would also address issues under article 40 of the Covenant and prepare concise lists of issues concerning reports scheduled for consideration at the sixty-fifth session. The Committee will continue its discussion of methods of work with a view to adopting new guidelines on the examination of State party reports, consider ways of overcoming the backlog of State party reports and of communications awaiting examination, further consider the mainstreaming of gender issues, and explore ways of obtaining strengthened Secretariat support, including through the adoption of a plan of action.

6. Action by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session:

(a) Annual report submitted by the Human Rights Committee under article 45 of the Covenant

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/175 of 18 December 1990, substantive resolutions on treaty-based bodies are adopted biennially ("odd years"). Consequently, the adoption by the Assembly of a substantive resolution on the work of the Committee is reserved until its fifty-fourth session in 1999.

(b) Effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights and effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments

A note indicating matters raised in the course of the discussion of the effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights and effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments by the Third Committee together with the relevant General Assembly resolution will be circulated to members of the Committee.

7. Submission of reports by State parties under article 40 of the Covenant

A. Reports received

In addition to the reports which are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its sixty-fifth session (see the timetable for consideration of reports under item 8 below), the Secretary-General has received the reports of the following States parties:

Initial reports

State party	Symbol	Date due	Date received
Bosnia and Herzegovina	CCPR/C/81/Add.11	1996	11 March 1997
Kyrgyzstan	CCPR/C/113/Add.1	1996	5 May 1998
Kuwait	CCPR/C/120/Add.1	1997	18 May 1998

Second periodic reports

Afghanistan	CCPR/C/57/Add.5	1989	25 October 1991
Congo	CCPR/C/63/Add.5	1990	9 July 1996
Republic of Korea	CCPR/C/114/Add.1	1996	2 October 1997
Ireland	CCPR/C/IRL/98/2	1996	29 September 1998
Gabon	CCPR/C/128/Add.1	1998	6 February 1998
Switzerland	CCPR/C/CH/98/2	1998	29 September 1998

Third periodic reports

Australia	CCPR/C/AUS/98/3	1991	28 August 1998
Venezuela	CCPR/C/VEN/98/3	1993	8 July 1998
Argentina	CCPR/C/ARG/98/3	1997	20 July 1998

Fourth periodic reports

Romania	CCPR/C/95/Add.7	1994	26 April 1996
Poland	CCPR/C/95/Add.8	1994	7 May 1996
Morocco	CCPR/C/115/Add.1	1996	27 January 1997
Norway	CCPR/C/115/Add.1	1996	4 February 1997
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man)	CCPR/C/95/Add.10	1994	12 February 1997
Mexico	CCPR/C/123/Add.1	1997	30 June 1997
Mongolia	CCPR/C/103/Add.7	1995	20 April 1998
Australia	CCPR/C/AUS/98/4	1996	28 August 1998
Peru	CCPR/C/PER/98/4	1998	3 July 1998
Denmark	CCPR/C/DNK/98/4	1998	30 December 1998

In addition, the Secretariat has received the text of a submission by the Government of China on the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong, and a supplement by the Netherlands Antilles to the third and fourth periodic reports of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

B. Reports due

For the situation with regard to the submission of reports by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant reference is made to annex IV of the Committee's annual report to the General Assembly (A/53/40).

8. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant

A tentative timetable for the consideration of reports at the sixty-fifth session, prepared in consultation with the Chairperson and subject to approval by the Committee, is given below:

Timetable for consideration of reports of States parties

Chile CCPR/C/95/Add.11	Fourth	Wednesday	24 March
Cameroon CCPR/C/102/Add.2	Third	Thursday	25 March
Canada CCPR/C/103/Add.5	Fourth	Friday	26 March
Cambodia CCPR/C/81/Add.12	Initial	Tuesday	30 March
Lesotho CCPR/C/81/Add.14	Initial	Thursday	1 April
Costa Rica CCPR/C/103/Add.6	Fourth	Monday	5 April

In accordance with rule 68 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their respective reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its sixty-fourth session.

9. General comments of the Committee

Under this item, the Committee will continue consideration of the draft general comment on article 12 and consider the draft general comment on article 3.

10. Consideration of communications under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant

In accordance with the provisions of chapter XVII of the rules of procedure, the Committee will consider under this item communications which are or appear to be submitted to it under the Optional Protocol.

One hundred and sixty-three communications are pending before the Committee from earlier sessions. Forty-two of these communications have already been declared admissible and are pending for a decision on the merits, i.e. Views under article 5 (4) of the Optional Protocol. Pursuant to the Committee's new rules of procedure allowing the joint examination of admissibility and merits in appropriate cases, the Committee's examination of the remaining 121 communications may result in the adoption of Views, or in decisions declaring the communications admissible or inadmissible. In addition, the Committee will have before it summaries of a number of recently registered communications and summaries of new communications registered after its last session, together with an indication of any action which may have been taken by the Special Rapporteur on new communications.

In accordance with article 5, paragraph 3, of the Optional Protocol and rule 82 of the Committee's rules of procedure, this agenda item will be considered in closed meetings.

11. Substantive issues:

(a) Minimum standards of humanity

(b) Reservations to human rights treaties

Under this item the Committee will continue its discussion of issues addressed to it by the Commission on Human Rights, including the question of fundamental standards of humanity (Commission resolution 1995/29). The Committee will also examine the text prepared by one of its members setting forth the Committee's position on the International Law Commission's Preliminary Conclusions on Reservations to Normative Multilateral Treaties.